UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1993/16
23 February 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-seventh session
Vienna, 17-26 March 1993
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1994-1995

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In regulation 3.1 and rules 103.2, 103.3 and 103.6 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the intergovernmental body concerned with specific programmes is requested to provide comments on the proposed work programme for the next biennium. The note contains initital proposals being considered by the Secretary-General for incorporation in his programme budget for the period 1994-1995. The Commission is requested to make any comments that it feels might need to be taken into account by the Secretary-General in preparing his submission to the General Assembly.

*E/CN.6/1993/1.

V.93-82201 8935T

1. The Commission on the Status of Women may wish to review the proposed programme of work on the advancement of women and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. It should be borne in mind that, in accordance with the terms of regulation 3.1 and rules 103.2, 103.3, 103.5 and 103.6 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, while the suggestions or recommendations on the substance of the work programme by the intergovernmental body concerned may be taken into account in the course of the preparation and review of the programme budget, the Secretary-General cannot commit himself to the adoption of such suggestions or recommendations before the completion of the proposed programme budget.

2. The proposed programme of work contained in the annex is submitted in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning (ST/SGB/PPBME/Rules/1 (1987)). It is based on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ as revised and adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214.

3. The programme for the advancement of women is based on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 2/ up to the year 2000. The work for the biennium 1994-1995 is governed by the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ and contains only output that has been explicitly mandated by recent resolutions or by the Forward-looking Strategies. The format of the proposed programme of work is in line with the new framework set out in the medium-term plan. The Commission may wish to note that under the new procedure established for priority-setting, priorities for the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 will be set at the output/services level.

4. Under the programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995, implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and various articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) will continue with the servicing of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. During the biennium 1994-1995, greater substantive support will continue to be given to the Committee and the quality of the studies for the selected priority themes for the Commission will be strengthened with the extensive use of expert group meetings. Attention will continue to be paid to providing advisory and information services to Governments, in terms of strengthening national machinery for the advancement of women and improving national reports submitted for consideration by the Committee. The dominant priority of the biennium will be to assist national preparatory bodies in their preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held at Beijing in September 1995, to coordinate the regional preparatory bodies for the World Conference and other international and world conferences held to promote the World Conference, and to service the Conference and its international preparations.

5. Bearing in mind this information, the Commission may wish to comment on the proposed programme of work and proposed priorities of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. II, Programme 27.

Annex

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

A. Subprogramme 1. Equality

1. Orientation

1. Particular efforts will be made to improve support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by increasing the quantity of analysis presented to the Committee. Much of this analysis will be reflected in a new version of the Committee's report to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), which will be submitted to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace. For the Commission on the Status of Women, work on priority themes will centre on the effectiveness of affirmative action measures on achievement of economic equality through the application of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and equality in economic decision-making. The analysis of the work for the Committee will be linked to the work on the priority themes for the Commission. Operational activities will centre on assisting States Parties to the Convention in preparing periodic reports and in training at the subregional level in the implementation of the Convention.

2. Activities

2. The activities to be undertaken by the Division will consist of:

(a) A substantive output, namely, the drafting of the following documents:

(i) Reports to the General Assembly on the Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (two reports, 1994 and 1995);

(ii) Reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women containing a separate analysis of initial and periodic reports by States Parties to the Convention being presented to the Committee (20 reports, 1994 and 1995) and an identification of trends in the implementation of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention (1994) and other specific articles to be decided on (1995), and a report on the implications of priority theme analyses prepared for the Commission on the Status of Women for the work of the Committee (four reports, 1994 and 1995);

(iii) Reports to the Commission on the Status of Women on the list of confidential and non-confidential communications relating to the status of women (1994 and 1995), on equal pay for work of equal value, including methodologies for measurement of pay inequities and work in the informal sector 1994), and on equality in economic decision-making (1995);

(iv) Report to the Fourth World Conference on Women on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1995);

(b) Substantive services will be provided:

(i) To the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (annual: 1994, 1995);

(ii) To the Commission on the Status of Women (annual: 1994, 1995);

(c) Technical (secretariat) services will be provided:

(i) To the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (annual: 1994, 1995);

(ii) To the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (biennial: 1994);

(d) Ad hoc expert group meetings will be organized and related preparatory work carried out as follows:

(i) An ad hoc expert group meeting on women and equality in economic decision-making will be held (1994) and a Secretariat background paper will be produced on the same subject (1994);

(ii) An ad hoc expert group meeting on the elimination of stereotyping of women in the mass media will be held (1995) (extrabudgetary) and a Secretariat background paper will be produced on the subject (1995).

3. Published material

3. The following recurrent publication will be produced: The Work of CEDAW (annual, 1994, 1995) (extrabudgetary).

4. Operational activities

4. The Division's operational activities will consist of:

(a) Advisory services, in the form of advisory missions to nine countries on the preparation of periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1994, 1995) (extrabudgetary);

(b) Group training consisting of two subregional seminars on the Convention (1994, 1995) (extrabudgetary).

B. Subprogramme 2. Development

1. Orientation

5. The priority themes for the Commission on the Status of Women under the heading "Development" are the promotion of literacy, education and training, as well as the condition of women in urban areas. Emphasis will be on the preparations for the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development and

an in-depth analysis of development issues as part of the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Operational activities will focus on helping national systems to play their full role in ensuring that women's concerns are part of the mainstream development efforts and will be increased over the biennium as part of the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. Activities

6. The activities to be undertaken by the Division will consist of:

(a) A substantive output, namely, the drafting of the following documents:

(i) Reports to the General Assembly, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (1994), and, through the Economic and Social Council, on effective mobilization for women in development (1995);

(ii) Reports to the Commission on the Status of Women on women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (1994), and on the promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills (1995);

(b) Substantive services will be provided:

(i) To the Commission on the Status of Women (annual: 1994, 1995);

(ii) To the Economic and Social Council (biennial: 1995);

(iii) To the General Assembly (biennial: 1994);

(c) Ad hoc expert group meetings will be organized and related preparatory work carried out as follows:

(i) An ad hoc expert group meeting on the promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills will be held (1994) (extrabudgetary) and a Secretariat background paper will be produced on the subject (1994);

(ii) An ad hoc expert group meeting on child and dependant care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities will be held (1995) (extrabudgetary) and a Secretariat background paper will be produced on the subject (1995);

(iii) An ad hoc expert group meeting on caring and crisis situation: women and AIDS will be held (1995) (extrabudgetary) and a Secretariat background paper will be produced on the subject (1995).

3. Operational activities

7. The Division's operational activities will consist of advisory missions to nine countries on the strengthening of national machinery (1994, 1995) (extrabudgetary).

C. Subprogramme 3. Peace

1. Orientation

8. The establishment of measures to eradicate violence against women and the full participation of women in international decision-making are the priority themes for the Commission on the Status of Women under the heading "Peace". For this, the database on women in government decision-making will be updated and revised statistics published. Efforts will be made to articulate women's point of view on current issues of global governance.

2. Activities

9. The activities to be undertaken by the Division will consist of:

(a) A substantive output, namely, the drafting of reports to the Commission on the Status of Women on measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society (1994), on women in international decision-making (1995), on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (1994, 1995), and on women and children under apartheid (1994, 1995);

(b) Substantive services will be provided to the Commission on the Status of Women (annual: 1994, 1995);

(c) An ad hoc expert group meeting will be held on women in international decision-making (1994) and a Secretariat background paper will be produced on the subject (1994).

3. Published material

10. The following technical material will be produced: an update of the database on women in decision-making positions (1994).

D. Subprogramme 4. Monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

1. Orientation

11. Work will be centred on the preparations for and immediate follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, including the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and servicing of the intergovernmental preparatory bodies for the World Conference. Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategies by the organizations of the United Nations system will continue. An effort will be made to increase the amount and quality of public information on the work of the United Nations for the advancement of women by improving existing publications and their distribution.

2. Activities

12. The activities to be undertaken by the Division will consist of:

(a) International cooperation, namely:

(i) Liaison with a network of non-governmental organizations concerned with advancement of women, including the Vienna, Geneva and New York NGO Committees (1994, 1995);

(ii) Provision of substantive support to meetings of non-governmental organizations that take place at the time of annual sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as in preparations for the NGO Forum to be held at Beijing in connection with the Fourth World Conference on Women (1994, 1995);

(iii) Provision of support to the NGO Forum (1995);

(b) Substantive output, namely, the drafting of the following documents:

(i) Reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (1994, 1995);

(ii) Reports to the Commission on the Status of Women on the system-wide monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking strategies (1994), and on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women (1994, 1995), and draft rules of procedure for the Fourth World Conference on Women (1994);

(iii) Documents for the Fourth World Conference on Women, namely: a report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, a draft final document on the Platform for Action (1995), an update of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics (1995), a report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), and reports on relevant sections of final documents emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights and the International Conference on Population and Development (1995);

(c) Substantive services will be provided:

(i) To the General Assembly (annual: 1994, 1995);

(ii) To the Economic and Social Council (annual: 1994, 1995);

(iii) To the Commission on the Status of Women (annual: 1994, 1995);

(iv) To the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995).

3. Published material

13. The Division will produce:

(a) The following recurrent publications:

(i) Directory of Focal Points within the United Nations System on Questions Relating to Women (1994);

(ii) Directory of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women (1994, 1995);

(iii) Women 2000 (four in 1994 and 1995);

(iv) Conference 95 (two in 1994 and 1995);

(v) Women's Information System (WIS) accessions list (two in 1994 and 1995);

(b) The following technical material:

(i) An update of WIS computer software (1995) (extrabudgetary);

(ii) Technical services to the annual interagency meetings on women of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, including the preparation of background papers and the reports of the meetings (1994, 1995);

(iii) Coordination with national and regional preparatory activities for the World Conference on Women (1994);

(iv) Coordination with other international and world conferences and events to promote the World Conference on Women in 1995, for example the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the International Year of the Family (1994) and the World Summit for Social Development (1995);

(v) Coordination with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and other statistical offices in preparing statistical indicators for the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and The World's Women: Trends and Statistics (1994, 1995).